

A Short Stimulation of Your Critical Senses

Everybody has heard about Libya, everybody has heard about its brutal dictator Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. But, has anybody ever asked the question why he held his power for over 42 years? This article aims to introduce a different picture of Gaddafi, different from the one drawn by the Western NATO-states. Gaddafi came to power as a result of his revolution against the Sanusi monarchy in 1969, as peaceful as a revolution can be. Under the slogans 'Freedom', 'Arab Unity' and 'Socialism' he promoted a politic of 'peopledom', which held strong ideological values of socialism, communism and Nasserism, highlighting the importance of everybody being equal. However their enactment throughout his long reign of authoritarianism was missing at several stages. Under Gaddafi's rule and as a result of the riches of the country's oil resources, Libya held the same economic status (GDP) as Portugal at this time and furthermore represented the highest HDI on the whole African continent, which implies that education, as well as the health system was good and free. The literacy rate was high and life expectancy longer than in neighbouring countries. Women were allowed free education and unlike in many other African Muslim countries, polygamy was restricted. Unrestricted polygamy is still very common in Muslim countries under Sharia law. Recently, the new interim government after its struggle for 'democracy' and the dishonourable defeat of Gaddafi, announced the revival of open polygamy and the legal right within 'new Libya' for men to marry up to 4 women. What happened to Human Rights and Western values? Are women rights not supposed to be, from a Western view, included in a modern Muslim state? Is that the picture the West gives to the world, supporting and financing the apparent 'good'? We always have to be critical when dealing with authoritarian regimes and dictatorial leaders, such as Gaddafi, who killed dissidents and ruled his country with open authoritarianism. However, I also argue that we need to be critical with any leader who holds a friendly bond with the head of the main news provider of his country. One who rules his country through manipulation of facts and events to scare the population and bring it closer to nationalism to fight together against the 'other', the 'bad'. As Amnesty suggests on its homepage, there is enough room for improvement in terms of Human Rights conditions in Libya, but do the conditions of the United States seem a lot better? Guantanamo still is and always has been a highly criticised 'institution' where torture of the unaccused happens in silence and with low public monitoring and criticism. Furthermore, it seems that the West uses the excuse of revolution to intervene and openly claim the protection of innocents. It is highly suspicious

that they pray human rights but then support the Libyan interim government which openly states discrimination against women. Does the West not just use our Western institutions, such as the UN, to justify its struggle for national interest?

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various civil actions against notorious tax avoiders such as Vodafone and Topshop. Additionally the Occupy Wallstreet movement has now gone global and found a base in London. The Stock Exchange was the original

target, but police protected this far holier institution from occupation in their hundreds. Those now camping outside of St. Paul's are a diverse bunch of people of many ages and social backgrounds, they have different ideas about politics and religion. They are not all Communists; they are not all Anarchists. They don't claim to have all the answers but, importantly, a movement has been started in which the 'C' word is no longer taboo. What we all broadly agree upon is that the current system is dysfunctional, unfair and unsustainable. The ugly beast of 'Corporate Greed' is by no means a mythical creation of the hippies, it is systemic and it is visible. You can see it consuming our job prospects, our free education, EMA, our lecturers' pensions, the benefits and housing for the poorest - even our beloved NHS. It would be short-sighted to see each of these issues in isolation. Continued on page 2



Print-capitalism, fees, money, ethics, acadmia, errors, cracks and leaks are our domain. We hope you enjoy this first edition of a truly independent paper at Brookes. We meet every monday at 7 and urge you to join us and contribute to discussions and writing. More info [page 4](#)

C***** There is a kind of silent censorship against the 'C'

word, or there was - for the longest time. Now things look to be changing. People all over the world are coming out of the closet - we are not all coming out as the same thing but we are all trying to escape the same darkness. As austerity measures sweep the Western world - supposedly 'the solution' to the problem caused by the richest few at the expense of the vast majority - people are waking up. We saw true discontent at the mass student demonstrations last year; the riots in the UK and Greece and in the

Noam Chomsky

Rebellious Media Conference 2011, London



'If students come out of college with a lot of debt, it is controlled.' [page 2](#)

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My Year in the Fridge

Did you know that Finland has an average temperature of 7°C throughout the whole year? That is exactly the average temperature my milk enjoys, when chilling in the fridge. I did not know that, before I went there. With the European Erasmus programme I was sent to Tampere, Finland, just one hour away from the capital Helsinki. I was going to spend my whole second Academic year there, earning all my marks and credits over there, not losing any time here at Brookes.

30th of August, 2010. My plane arrives at around 9pm in the smallest airport that I have ever safely landed on. I take the suitcase, which is filled with my whole life for the approaching one year in the land of Santa Clause and Rudolfs, and take my first step on official Finnish land. I am literally standing in the middle of a forest, the dark sky filled with unreal sparkling stars. Between the trees you can catch some waves shining in the moonlight from one of the thousand little lakes. I take a deep breath, the air tastes completely different, warm and fresh but you can smell the end of summer. Slightly scared but also amazed by my new environment, I am getting on the bus to meet my first real Finn. The bus driver looks like a Viking, cut out of a children's geography book, strong rough face, ice-blue eyes and, of course, a beard. He speaks perfect English and tells me where to get off and how to get to the train station, where my 'exchange buddy' is waiting for me. I wake up in my room which has an en-suite bathroom and an amazing view over the lake close to the exchange student accommodation. I go down the stairs to the bus stop where I hear all the different languages of the exchange students living with me. It is easy to simply join a conversation since everybody came here with the same aim: to meet new people and to broaden their horizon.

My first month in Tampere was exciting, full of new people and impressions and especially full of Saunas. In the months between November and March, when the big lake froze completely we took our snowshoes and bikinis, went marching for several hours until we found a nice sauna in the forest, but close enough to do some ice-swimming. I cannot recommend this enough, its an incredible experience feeling the around 100°C inside and then swimming in a hole of the frozen lake which has a temperature of 1°C. Your body relaxes every muscle and your skin feels jet-washed and completely disinfected. But the best experience was the new people. It was an incredible mixture of nationalities: Russian, Spanish, American, German, Indian and Mexican, everything! Everybody was friendly with everyone, we were like a big international family, supporting each other in bad times and celebrating the good times together. So many people from different countries with different cultures, histories and languages and out of these, so many with a big heart. However, what I was missing there, were the British exchange students. I, as an Austrian student based here in Oxford Brookes was the only 'British' exchange student. Where did they all go?



Tampere, Finland: around -20 C in winter. Temperatures drop as low as -35 C. Normally.

They stayed in England. I was volunteering at the exchange information desk in Week 3 in the main building and I was surprised and disappointed that almost every British student asked for information about going to either to Australia, Canada or the United States. Where does this 'fear' of other languages, cultures and lifestyles come from? Why is everybody so scared to explore something new? Swimming in a frozen lake or riding a Reindeer at the North cape, are experiences of a lifetime that you will tell your grand-children about. Shopping in Brisbane or Tampa, probably not.

Open up your mind a bit and you will see that the most memorable experience is not always the simplest and most comfortable one. But you will get something from it, like I did, when I met my French boyfriend in Finland, who is studying with me now here in Oxford.

If you want to know about Erasmus and international exchange- and the tuition fee waiver; then check out your subject and country online at:

<http://kea.nu/abroad>

Interview

Noam Chomsky interviewed by Christina Vondracek about education at the Rebellious Media Conference 2011 in London

Chomsky: In a lot of poor countries, very poor countries, education is free. In Germany, education is free. These are not economic problems, these are political decisions. As a matter of fact, if you trace them back, it has a lot to do with controlling students. If students come out of college with a lot of debt, it is controlled. These are things which were in fact put into place in the 70s, a lot of them out of concern of the fact that students were too free and independent, so you have to find ways to control them. It was really explicit, if you take a look at the literature on it, let's not talk about it now, it was pretty explicit. England and the United States [are] in the lead but I don't think it's an economic problem. I don't really think it's an economic problem, as you can see, when you look at poor countries like Mexico, it's a good, it's a pretty good educational system. I mean I've talked at the national university.

Christina: What would you suggest us students, how can we make the educational system more just? Can we do something about it?

Chomsky: You've got to help educate the society, so that they understand what's going on!

Shop Recommendation

Age UK - SU

There is now an *age UK* charity shop at Headington hill campus, inside the SU building. Come check out some great offers on titbits, donate your old stuff as you move out - or to volunteer email sholton@brookes.ac.uk

If you look closely, you will see that the system is rotten to the core. Whilst facing facts can be scary, you are certainly not alone. Even if no one presently has all the answers, we share a responsibility to signal discontent. All the students who voted Lib Dem in the last election will find that the notorious banners at St. Pauls Cathedral hold true: 'if voting changed anything it would be illegal'. British politics are stagnating and

the government fears nothing more than the true collective agency of people. For fear of losing votes they try to appease, but end up ruling as reactionaries. Again, the problem is systemic - democracy as we know it is powerless when faced with the collapse of - let's say it, capitalism. When we stage a peaceful protest, they label us 'extreme' and threaten us by propping up rows and rows of riot police, Alsatians and horses. When asked why those of us at St. Pauls found ourselves, on its debut weekend, 'contained' (kettled), then uncontained, then 'contained' again, despite the internal dynamics of the protest remaining constantly peaceful, a police officer replied 'there were lots of innocent shoppers mixed in which we had to let out'. The message is clear: shopping is legitimate, a demonstration is not. These blurred boundaries between shoppers and marchers are illuminatingly symbolic; as long as we keep running the rat-race, attaining to material visions of a full self, completed by the purchase of a new smartphone made by Foxconn, trainers from a sweatshop and a 4D plasma dream-machine, we will never stop the destruction raged by over-consumption. Only the serious investment of energy into free and unrestrained thought, free and uncensored conversation, would put us right on track to creating a vibrant new society. The place to get talking right now is the demonstration in London on November 9th otherwise, keep calm and carry on shopping.

Demonstration Wednesday 9th
NCA&C

Cost: £0

<http://kea.nu/wewillmarch>



Coaches will be supplied by the Oxford Brookes. Join the protest against the commodification of education, the trebling of tuition fees, chat to your friends, chat to people you don't know.

If you have a reading list to get through, tackle it at 'Occupy London' where friendlies have set up a communal kitchen, a library and an IT facility. More info on that, at facebook.com/occupylondon

Space to Shmink

When I walked into Brookes for the first time and saw the Santander branch – notably one of the proprietors of the tar sands and other environmentally destructive operations; a threat to indigenous people's rights in view of the Rio Madeira dam project in Brazil – and target, on numerous counts, of tax-evasion accusations. I thought Brookes is sending out an odd mismatch of messages. Barclay's, their house-bank doesn't exactly have a clean track record either. There is really only one ethical high street bank and that's the Co-Operative, with a creed to a fairer model of capitalism through shared ownership.

In my second semester, I was sitting in the cafeteria with my friends, when a woman asked us, if we would like to have a 'make over'. We said, thanks we are fine. The woman seemed shocked and insisted - 'Really? Are you sure? It's free, it's a promotion by our company!'

We were all already wearing makeup that day and we had come there to study, not to look pretty – actually, and to anyone of weaker mind the imposition could have been a serious blow to self-esteem, which is of course the tool of trade of the makeup industry. We are students, we want to understand, question and improve the world, and not consume it. Obviously the marketing management at Brookes has no problem with turning us into Academics as well as consumers, but sadly being instilled into the capitalist order and surveying it from a critical distance don't go too well together. The Nikon advertisement on the plasma screens has been removed (I like Canon). Yet the ad-agency is still allowed to flash their logo at us. In between spinning logos we get second-stills of an SU poster for a campaign against unfair housing market practices (which is great, but the type is too small, FYI). As if to say – currently this ad space is for rent – oh and the student union is doing 'something'. We say no! We want to study. We have the right to marketing-free education, especially after we've paid for it! Ads don't affect us, sure, but then why are they there? We are the dreamers who strive to make this world a better place and many of us already struggle with debt and a destitute job market. Brookes is a green, fair trade University say their own marketers, but how fair is it really? Why is there a multitude of corporations who are allowed to come to our University to promote paint ball, Cosmo, and 'make-overs'? The university should be a place for critical thinking, of intellectual debate, a – what do they call it – Space to think.

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Syria - Continued from page 1

Syria's revolution started one month after Libya's and is still missing a 'humanitarian' intervention to protect its citizens. Why? Because Libya's oil resources are the biggest on the African continent and serve the national interest of Western states, as well as Russia and China. Additionally, throughout the last decade, many Western nations such as Germany, the UK, Italy and France, the 'protectors of human rights and justice', exported weapons, military planes and electric equipment to Libya which was already officially labelled a threat to peace and security of the international community, the so-called 'bad'. Why did they sell weapons to an apparent mass murderer who oppressed his people? This demonstrates the hypocrisy Western states practise: preaching human rights, justice and peace and secretly dealing with the 'other', the apparent evil, supporting his regime of terror and murder. For me, this all is just a vicious, hypocritical circle of blame. 'Not a single dictatorship would be able to survive without the complicity of democratic countries'. Is it still a 'humanitarian' intervention or just a witch-hunt to prove the 'goodness' of the West, secretly aiming for oil/national self-interest? As I finished this article, my flatmate shouts 'Gaddafi is dead!' through the house, raising the question in me – who killed him? And do his deeds and actions justify murder? This proves the West's hypocrisy, preaching Human Rights and peace and secretly dealing with the 'other', the apparent evil, supporting his regime of terror and murder. For me, this all is just a vicious, hypocritical circle of blame, aiming to protect the 'Western halo' by labelling others 'the axis of evil' and mass murderers, when in reality they are supporting these regimes.

The Brookes vegetarian and vegan society are campaigning to get the gypsy lane canteen and possibly others to offer better vegetarian meals, and if possible, get the canteen to participate in **Meat Free Mondays (MFM)**. It's more environmentally friendly as the amount of energy required to produce meat is greater than for vegetables and fruit. It lowers your carbon emissions a fair bit. Stop with the 'I need meat, I need protein' crap; a study found that two thirds of those who undertook meat free Mondays had better health, eating habits and higher levels of physical activity. So far we have had a single stall in gypsy lane gathering signatures, and we managed to get 4 pages worth of signatures in only a couple of hours so there is some support for our campaign but we'll be collecting more signatures there and at other campuses. We are please to say that the head chef at gypsy lane is in favour of our petition and has sent a few staff off on vegan training courses the other week. Other universities have managed to do meat free Mondays, entire cities are participating. Brookes prides itself on green credentials so this would be working in its favour. Why don't you try going meat free on Mondays? It'll encourage creative cooking and trying things you normally wouldn't!

-Lukasz Falendki

Musicality

Ever hear that stuff being pumped out of the bus on your journey to or from work, school, university? Ever think how it might be destroying your brain and soul? Music snobbery this is not. This is a short hand way of asking you to broaden your interests. Please. Imagine the possibilities of discovering the intricacies of a classical piece as the sun blazes through your window on a summer afternoon, or enjoying the frivolity and carefree tones of fine folk singers in full flow. The individual tones on a piano sonata resonating in the void where musical consciousness seems lacking. Trying to combat these heady days where compression and side-chaining seems to be the answer to any musical problem. No heart, no soul, no purpose. Nearly everything that has been made musically for generations has roots in places you may find surprising. The more you trace back that one track on the radio, the larger the spectrum of ideas, and interpretations that is available to you becomes. This thing we call 'genre' – you will learn to appreciate it so, begin to savour rich the moments connected to the swelling sounds in your mind in a different way. Begin where it began, the classics, look at how early pieces are so simple, yet so intricate. Find the sounds you recognise from other places, trace the samples, your memory banks. Move forward by looking back, connect the dots. Plug away until you find something that enraptures your consciousness, puts a smile on your face and puts you on track to rethink. Rethink the possibilities of an art form struggling to find it's identity in a world where mp3 is king. Rethink the depth of emotions that people can develop from something as theoretically simple as a violin motif. That, will be the start of our reaffirmation.

-C.F

Album Recommendation

Joni Mitchell - Blue

Buy: £3.23

<http://kea.nu/blue>



Joni is a jazz singer with a folk heart; she was part of that special 1970's era of politically engaged music meshed with hippie optimism. This is a wistfully melancholic tribute to the times and issues, in part very personal. The instrumentation is simple but the vocals soar above in beautiful melodic yoyo patterns, losing none of their emotion through the remaster. At £3 you might as well.

C'est où chez nous?

Si toi comme tant d'autres tu es raciste: militant ou passif, du blagueur occasionnel, à l'hypocrite qui se réjouit de connaître quelqu'un qui n'est pas d'ici. Tu vas à l'université, les théories tu connais, mais tu aimes le concret, tu aimes les phrases toutes faites, ça te rassure. Et pour toi qui dit plus d'immigrants dit moins de travaille, c'est logique. Assied toi gentiment mon grand...c'est pas facile d'entendre ça, mais faut que je te le dise...on t'a menti. Ok on commence

simple : tous les gouvernements des pays « riches » et « prospères » ont besoin de migrants. Les politiques le savent mais ne veulent pas froisser leur électorat si bien dressé contre ces gens venus d'ailleurs. Ils ne veulent pas perdre ce si précieux joker, quand tout va mal, le très simple et toujours trop efficace : c'est la faute des étrangers. Des chiffres : 2/3 des migrants sont diplômés, 80% ont moins de 35 ans. Pour le problème des retraites, ils peuvent nous aider. « Ils prennent nos alloc, nos HLM et ils se cassent... » Non non non, la plupart du temps ils font des travaux sous qualifiés au vue de leur diplômes; des travaux que peu ou pas de gens acceptent, parfois travaillent plus, souvent plus vite. Ils cotisent, payent des impôts, investissent dans notre pays et parfois repartent couler leur retraite proche de ceux qu'ils ont quitté. Regarde vite fait les quelques graphiques ci-dessous et si tu veux en savoir plus, jette un coup d'oeil sur les études de Silva-Vargas de l'Université d'Oxford.

<http://kea.nu/table>

Si le pays où je suis né, où j'ai grandi, est ce qu'il est, un pays où pour la plupart, on est pas à plaindre, c'est beaucoup grâce à eux qui sont devenus nous. Cette palette pleine de couleurs où on parle peut être pas encore tous anglais, mais arabe, wolof, hindi, italien, polonais, espagnol, portugais. Mon pays c'est un passé, une cultures, mais c'est aussi une nation peuplée d'êtres humains qui chacun apporte son point de vue, sa force, sa culture. Un peuple qui, depuis la nuit des temps se nourrit d'ailleurs. C'est un pays qui est gouverné par la peur, un pays raciste parmi tant d'autres...

EDITORIAL

We are an unfunded, unaffiliated, alternative newspaper for Brookes. We are not designers, marketers, typesetters or in any way professional publishers. The fact is we write for you. Anything herein is open to your scrutiny. Our email is editorial@piperror.com and any words from you will be considered at the same table, during the same meeting, as submissions from our existing contributors. The primary goal of our team is to create a platform for students at Brookes. We seek to amplify the murmurs and magnify the notes passed amongst us in our lecture halls. We will not shy away from criticism of the company that employs our much respected academic staff. Likewise, we will not succumb to romantic ideals or prejudiced views. Even if the straining forces of the market prevent education from being gratis - we will do our best to keep it free. We will never forget that it can only be serious academic engagement that makes our time at Brookes University worthwhile and that challenging ideas are not borne of transient academic effort. Many thanks for picking up this copy; it cost 1 pence to print, circulation 800. You can get an electronic copy at <http://kea.nu/piperror>

The PIP Error editorial team

Clearing Out The Sugarcoated Twaddle

You arrived in your University's student halls yesterday. You woke up twenty minutes ago with a vile hangover as a result of your heavy night out yesterday with your new flatmates. Last night is a bit of a blur, but man! Life is good and you can tell that uni is going to be all you have imagined since your application was accepted nine months ago. You are walking towards campus where the fresher's fair is being held at the SU. People are handing out flyers to different promo nights, societies, places to eat, and more. Someone just gave you a free Cosmo on Campus-magazine – how convenient! You have been dying to catch up on 'whats the haps' in the style section for this autumn!

But hold on... Is this what Plato had in mind when he founded his school of philosophy, academia, approximately 385 BC? Probably not, but obvious reasons aside – what does a magazine like Cosmo on Campus really have to do with university? Apart from clearly being targeted at university students, that is. Have the high intellectual standards of universities become history, or are they simply adapting to our contemporary society? In 50 years, will Cosmo on Campus be the equivalent of contemporary informed magazines like, shall we say, The Economist?

Sure, Cosmo on Campus tackles a few important issues like 'manorexia', pressure sex and exaggerated alcohol consumption, but is it really necessary to present these issues in a sugar-coated form as part of an indulgent consumer manifesto? The front cover portrays an article about 30 things to do before leaving uni (including passing your degree, obvys!). Am I the only person who finds it disturbing that 'passing your degree' is put in brackets, as if it is subordinate to the so called 'student experience'? Surely people go to university because they have ambitions in life! Living in a Western liberal democracy, I dare suggest that we owe it to the less privileged peoples of the world to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity of higher education – and dare I suggest we make the most of it!

At the same time, this implies that we should try to resist the temptation of filling our heads with crap. The figures show that as having a university degree is less rarefied in today's job market, clearing space in the minds of students for relevant knowledge might be the best decision one can make. In 2008 37% of the population in the age group 25-34 had a university degree. That is quite a significant increase in comparison to 24% of 55-64 year-olds (source: BBC News). Having a university degree is thus becoming more 'normal' in this day and age – which could be seen as either good or bad. Saving that debate for another article, should we not, as future academics, try to focus slightly less on partying our brains out and consumer-encouraging magazines like Cosmo on Campus, and focus slightly more on our degrees? It will pay off in the long run, fellow students!

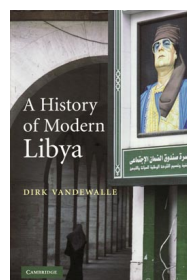
-Karen R. Moberg

Book Recommendation

Dirk Vandewalle - A History of Modern Libya

Buy: £9.75

<http://kea.nu/libya>



A history of modern Libya softly introduces you to the intimate history of a rather unknown country; its former monarchy, the revolution and the politics of its notorious dictator Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi throughout his reign of the past 40 years. It offers you insight, steering clear of clichés and demonization.